

Proper Pet Return and Dead Animal Disposal

After recent flooding over large portions of the state animal welfare is a great concern. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) is working with state authorities in assessing matters to aid in recovery.

As residents return to their homes BOAH advises people to watch for lost or dead animals. Lost pets should be turned over to the local animal control to identify the owner.

Pets that are dead should be disposed of properly. Marianne Ash, DVM, Director of Bio-security for BOAH, recommends the following steps.

First, check for identification and report that information to the local animal control shelter so that the owners can call to check the status of their pet.

Contact your local authorities, or veterinarian, about a possible collection point for dead pets.

If not, for small animals (like birds), use gloves and double-bag the animal in leak-proof containment. Dispose of the animal in your garbage. For larger animals (such cats and dogs), use proper handling and bury the animal.